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FINAL REPORT: Integrative Medicine Distance-Learning Program

Introduction

The aim of this project is to create a one year Integrative Medicine distance learning project that utilizes a variety of media and methods (such as the internet, printed materials, texts, electronic communication, video, audio, journals, and electronic dialogues) to provide curricula to students at a distance. Our program combines highly technical expertise, with scholarly richly referenced content and attention to pedagogical technique.

Body

In the Association of American Medical Colleges *Medical School Graduation Questionnaire*, *All Schools Report* (2000), over 60% of graduates from 1998 – 2000 (n=40,631) stated that instruction in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) was inadequate. The fundamental principles of integrative medicine are to promote health, optimize our natural healing and protective abilities as a human organism, as well as to prevent and treat injury and disease. This emerging field is defined as *healing-oriented medicine that takes account of the whole person* (*body, emotions, mind, and spirit*), *including all aspects of lifestyle. It emphasizes the therapeutic relationship and makes use of all appropriate therapies, both conventional and alternative*.

The Program in Integrative Medicine (PIM) at the University of Arizona has as its mission to lead the transformation of healthcare by creating, educating, and actively supporting a community of professionals who embody the philosophy and practice of Integrative Medicine. This University is the sole accredited institution of higher education involved in the comprehensive training of the physicians and other healthcare professionals in Integrative Medicine.

The original research hypothesis for this project were:

- Military health care professionals can benefit from online education in Integrative Medicine.
- Military personnel and their dependents can benefit from increased knowledge and skills in Integrative Medicine among military health care professionals
 Further, it was believed that this training program could have the following specific benefits:
 - Prevention of performance impairments related to inappropriate use of complementary and alternative modalities.
 - Improved performance of military personnel associated with improved clinical prevention, chronic and acute care outcomes military personnel and dependents.

- Lower cost of care for common acute and chronic illnesses.
- Reduction of adverse effects related to the use of more toxic therapies.
- Higher patient satisfaction levels

The protocol that was envisioned was to develop a one-year curriculum for military medical personnel and to evaluate that curriculum by providing it to an initial cohort of 40 military clinical personnel. University of Arizona IRB approval was obtained immediately, however there were substantial challenges in getting IRB approval from MRMC, with nine months being devoted to this (August 2003 to April 2004). When approval deemed unlikely, we were advised by Program officer to devote the remainder of our efforts to make the curriculum significantly more relevant to the military by recruiting those signed up to be the first class to instead become our faculty advisors. Due to the lack of IRB approval, no military clinicians were able to participate in the program and therefore the research hypotheses could not be tested.

An overall summary of the project follows (for a more detailed depiction, please see Appendix A):

• Phase 1: Months 1-18 (January 2003 - June, 2004)

- The Program in Integrative two-year integrative medicine curriculum was evaluated, restructured and pared down to a one-year offer. A variety of learning tools were selected including: the Internet, printed material, textbooks, electronic communication, audio CDs, videos, journals and electronic dialogues.
- Sixteen military advisors and faculty were recruited for participation in and content provision for the curriculum (see attached list of reviewers).
- Textbooks were chosen and sent to military faculty.
- Continuing Medical Education was applied for and obtained from the American Academy of Family Physicians for 121 elective credits.
- Web preparation was initiated for the new class.
- Curriculum for intensive training and evaluation residential week was planned.
- University of Arizona human subjects approval obtained.
- U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command human subjects approval attempted and denied.
- April 2004 the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center Program Officer recommended division of project into two additional phases as currently outlined.

• Phase II: Months 19-21 (July – September, 2004)

 Project revision to include curriculum and web development with more emphasis on ensuring military relevance, and without an actual class participating.

• Phase III: Months 22-36 (final status)

- Military advisors and faculty reviewed curriculum, developing and weaving in military relevance materials.
- Content prepared for delivery via the Internet and SCORM compatibility.

- Creating a 13 month integrated conference and online curriculum in Integrative Medicine consisting of 550 hours of training (10 hrs/week for 52 weeks + 30 hour onsite live training seminar in Tucson, Arizona). Please see Appendix B for detailed instructional schedule.
- Making the online content SCORM compatible.

Military relevance reviewers were selected from the original participant lists. These reviewers were provided with access to the online content and asked to address the following questions:

- 1. Given the unique aspects of military medicine and active duty populations (and their dependents), how might the reviewed content materials be best applied in clinical settings? Are there specific conditions (e.g. Gulf War Syndrome) or situations (e.g. combat-induced Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) where this material is most relevant? If possible, provide a personal example(s) that you've encountered.
- 2. Do you see limitations to applying this information in military settings? Please be specific. Are there opportunities for improving the potential application of this information?

Samples of content pages as well as military relevance pages for one area (Mind-Body Medicine) are depicted in Appendix C.

It is hoped that future work could be done to run participants through this program in order to test our original hypotheses. Specifically, our concept is that additional funding would support the following:

- Implementation of the one year curriculum and completion of an evaluation of this program's impact on military health care providers and on civilian health care professionals working in military facilities will be assessed.
 - o This curriculum will consist of a one year distributed learning training in nutrition, mind-body medicine, physical activity, botanical medicine, motivational interviewing, manual medicine, spirituality, Chinese medicine, homeopathy, medicine and culture and clinical integration.
 - o Sixty physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants from across all branches of the military will be recruited to participate. Evaluation, which will focus on the content, delivery methodology and individual learner progress, will be collected via surveys, tests and detailed participation data.
 - o A one week onsite evaluation of the trainees will complete the individual assessments.
- A series of shorter online modules will be made available to military clinician enrollees over four years. The target audience for these modules are physicians, nurses and allied health professionals. These modules provide 15-20 hours of CME and are completed over a two to three month period. No onsite trainee evaluation is performed but evaluation data is gathered within the online module(s). The modules consist of:
 - o Nutrition and Cardiovascular Health

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- Nutrition and Cancer
- o Botanical Fundamentals
- o Botanicals in Women's Health
- o Botanicals for Inflammation
- o Botanicals and Autoimmunity

Key Research Accomplishments

No research was possible due to the IRB issues detailed earlier in this report.

Reportable Outcomes

- No reportable research outcomes were possible due to the IRB issues detailed earlier in this report.
- It is important to note that the <u>entire</u> online curriculum as depicted in Appendix B (including the enhanced military relevance sections) is now finished and are available in a SCORM compatible format.
- Login information has been seen to our Program Officer:

Jessica Kenyon

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• For technical difficulties, please contact John King (johnk@u.arizona.edu). For more general questions, please email pimcourses@ahsc.arizona.edu.

References

None

Conclusion

Given the high level of usage of CAM modalities among Americans and among military personnel, military health care professionals need to be knowledgeable about botanicals, dietary supplements and other complementary alternative medicine modalities. Although this project was unable to test our original hypotheses due to IRB issues, we were successful in evolving a significant online curriculum in Integrative Medicine oriented toward military medical personnel. Future work should focus on gaining IRB approval to make this curriculum available to military medical personnel and evaluating their response to this training.

Appendix A: Project Milestones

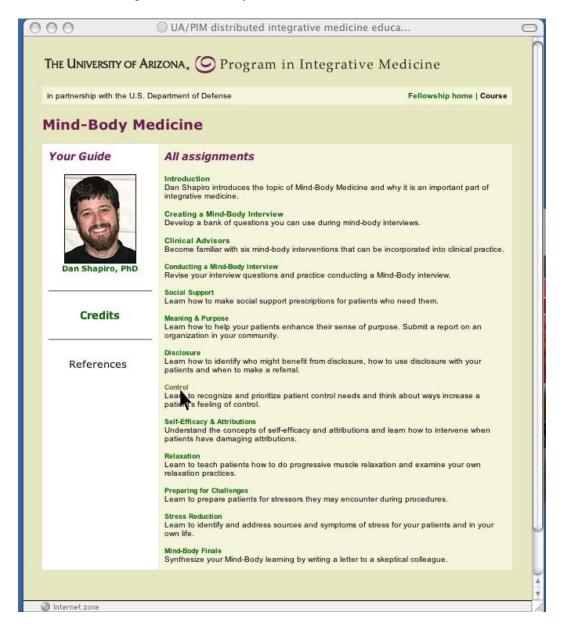
April 2004	May	June	July	August	September
Protocol amended, sent to program officer, budget modified accordingly and submitted; Recruitment of military advisors and reviewers of content	•Philosophy of IM, Intro to IM and Mindfulness modules sent to reviewers	•Mind-Body Medicine modules 1- 6 sent to reviewers •Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in May	Medicine and Culture x 6 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in June Web development of May content	Mind-Body Medicine modules 7-12 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in July Web development of June content	•Integrative Patient Care Process and Nutrition 1-6 sent to reviewers •Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in August •Web development of July content
October	November	December	January 2005	February	March
Nutrition 7-13 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in September Web development of August content	Mind-Body II x 3 and Chinese Medicine x 4 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in October Web development of October content	Homeopathy x 4 and Spirituality x 3 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in November Web development of November content	Botanicals 1-6 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in December Web development of December content Develop proposal for additional funding Phase II	Botanicals 7-12 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in January Web development of January content	Botanicals 13-18 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in February Web development of February content
April	May	June	July	August	September
Manual Medicine x sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in March Web development of March content	Physical Activity modules, + Tai Chi, Yoga, Guided Imagery and Stress Reduction Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in April Web development of April content	Clinical Scenario #1 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in May Web development of May content	Clinical Scenario #2 sent to reviewers Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in June Web development of June content	Changes rec'd from curriculum sent in July Web development of July content	Web development of August content

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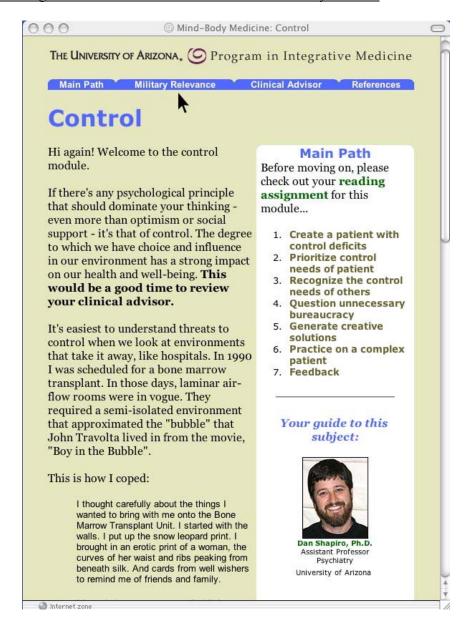
Month One	Month Two	Month Three	Month Four	Month Five	Month Six
Web Tutorial (wk 1)	Interview Prep (cont) (wk 5)	MB: Preparing for Challenges	Vacation (wk 14)	Nutrition (wk 18)	Nutrition (wk 22)
Community Building**	Clinical Advisors	MC:Explanatory models (cont)		MBII: Art Therapy	CM: Modalities/Techniques
-		(wk 10)			
Intro to IM* (wk 2)	MB: Conduct Interview (wk 6	MB: Finale (wk 11)	Assess Readiness to Change	Nutrition (wk 19)	Nutrition (wk 23)
Phil of Medicine	Med&Cult Cultural Awareness	MC: Wrap-up	Intro to IPCP (cont) (wk 15)	MBII: Hypnosis	CM: Lifestyle Practices Prev Care
					Includes Qi Gong
IM Debate (wk 3)	MB: Social Support (wk 7)			Nutrition (wk 20)	Nutrition (wk 24)
Health Resolution	Cult Awareness (cont)	Intro Integrative Care Process	Health Resolution revisted		
	MB: Disclosure (wk 8)	Vacation (wk 13)	Nutrition (wk 17)	Nutrition (wk 21)	Nutrition (wk 25)
MB I: Intro (wk 4)	MB: Control		MBII: Biofeedback	CM: Concepts	Homeopathy TB revised
Interview Prep	MC: How Culture affects care				
	MB: Self Efficacy (wk 9)				Nutrition (wk 26)
	MC: Explanatory models				Homeopathy TB revised
Month Seven	Month Eight	Month Nine	Month Ten	Month Eleven	Month Twelve
Nutrition (wk 27)	Botanicals (wk 31)	Botanicals (wk 35)	Botanicals (wk 40)	Botanicals (wk 44)	Catch up (wk 49)
Homeopathy TB revised	Spirituality	Manual Med Massage	Botanicals	Physical Activity Journal	Catch up (wk 50)
			Physical Activity Journal		
					Clinical Scenario #4 (wk 51)
Nutrition (wk 28)	Botanicals (wk 32)	Botanicals (wk 36)	Botanicals (wk 41)	MB: Relaxation	
Homeopathy TB revised	Spirituality	Manual Med Chiro Phil	Botanicals		Clinical Scenario #5 (wk 52)
		Manual Med Chiro Tech	Physical Activity Journal	Clinical Scenario #1 (wk 46)	
Botanicals Foundations (wk 29)	Botanicals (wk 33)		Vacation (wk 42)	Clinical Scenario #2 (wk 47)	Month Thirteen
Sec I-II History and Apothecary	Botanicals	Manual Med Chiro Wrap			(wk 53)
		Manual Med Hx of Osteo		Clinical Scenario #3 (wk 48)	(wk 54)
Botanicals Quality(short)(wk 30)	Botanicals (wk 34)	Botanicals (wk 38)	Vacation (wk 43)		
Botanicals Ethics (short)	Manual Medicine Intro	Manual Med Osteo Prin			
Spirituality		Manual Med Osteo Tech			
		Botanicals (wk 39)			
		Botanicals (wk 39) Botanicals			

Appendix C: Sample Content Pages

1. Overview or Phases Page for Mind-Body Section



2. Introduction Page for Module on Control within Mind-Body Section



3. Military Relevance Page for Module on Control within Mind-Body Section

